

MANITOBA BARLEY.

Winnipeg Board of Trade. - Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange.

Issued by the Winnipeg Board of Trade and the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange.

Following is the substance of a Report made to the Winnipeg Board of Trade and the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange, by S. W. Farrell & Co., and adopted by both bodies:

The estimated barley crop of 1887 in Manitoba was only 2,000,000 bushels. This shows that our farmers have not yet taken that interest in the growth of barley which its importance should command. Instead of making early delivery in advance of wheat the barley was held back to the manifest injury of the producer. Early marketing gives a better price, as the grain can be shipped by rail and water to points in the United States, and the Americans are, at present, our best customers.

The Ontario farmer markets his barley as early in September as is possible. The Manitoba farmer so far, has not begun to deliver before November. We desire to point out to the farmers of Manitoba that it much concerns them to make special efforts in the direction of raising first quality grain by paying particular attention to securing the best of seed, and having their ground properly prepared to receive it. Wheat can be grown in nearly every country, but there is no portion of the continent that can produce barley equal to that grown in Manitoba, or which will give to the malster and brewer such large returns from a given quantity.

Out of the total shipments of this crop, about 250,000 bushels passed under the examination of the official grain inspector, and was graded according to the Dominion standards. We would suggest to your Board that there is no possibility of fairly judging of the relative value of our barley as compared with that raised in Ontario, according to the standards now in force. We consider that light barley, say 44 to 49 pounds to the bushel and graded as No. 1, cannot be compared with barley weighing 49 to 53 pounds, and graded the same. We shipped inspected No. 1 barley, weighing 53½ pounds to the bushel, bright and clean, and far ahead of any other barley raised in Canada, and yet it classed only as standard No. 1. We consider the inspected No. 2, shipped from Manitoba, of better value than the ordinary standard No. 1 of the Dominion, and excepting for color, the No. 3 barley exported from Manitoba was well suited for the manufacture of good malt, because the dew stain on our grain comes off more readily in steeping than the weather-stained kinds of other districts. It takes about 18 hours longer to steep, with more frequent changes of the water, resulting in an astonishing brightness in color when finished. A good many cars were inspected here and classed as "rejected," simply because the barley, though heavy and fairly good, was so dirty that it is almost inconceivable that farmers would market grain in such condition when a little trouble expended would cleanse it thoroughly. This "rejected" has, to some extent, been shipped to the east for feed, and probably is the barley offered for seed in Ontario, against which the Toronto Board of Trade has been warning farmers.

Manitoba shippers have had a great deal to contend with, owing to prejudices raised by shipments in 1885 of slightly frosted grain, but chiefly by Ontario dealers mixing inferior varieties of Ontario grown barley with the Manitoba product, which mixture will not steep or grow properly, in fact, both samples are spoiled, for the Manitoba barley, owing to its hardness and greater weight, requires from 12 to 18 hours longer steeping. This accounts for the statements made that at least 40 per cent of our barley will not germinate, but fortunately we can produce statements of facts to show that the opposite of this is the case. The following is a condensed report taken from Bulletin No. 2, dated 15th Sept., 1887, issued by Prof. Saunders, Director of the Central Government Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada.

"Invitations were issued to farmers and others to send samples of grain, to be tested as to vitality and germinating powers. 187 samples were received, principally from Ontario and Manitoba. These seeds were found to vary as to vitality, some being nearly perfect while others were worthless from the loss of all germinating powers. The specimens sent from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories shewed a higher average of vitality, than those from the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion, an indication of the correctness of the opinion, *that grain grown in northern countries*

possesses more vigor and vitality than that produced in more southern latitudes, which makes it more valuable for seed.

Comparing Manitoba and the Northwest Territories with Ontario and the Provinces East, the tests thus far made shew the following averages:

N. W. PROVINCES.		EASTERN PROVINCES.	
PROPORTION OF VITALITY.		PROPORTION OF VITALITY.	
Wheat.....	96 per cent.	Wheat.....	92 per cent.
Barley.....	97 “	Barley.....	73 “
Oats.....	95 “	Oats..	65 “

We give the above figures without comment as they are published by the Dominion Government. But we have still further evidence to offer on this point, and we are in a position to prove that not only does Manitoba barley produce first class malt, but also that the malt gives a much better return to the brewer than that manufactured from any other barley grown on this continent.

The Canada Malt Company, of Detroit, Michigan, U. S., who also have a brewing establishment in that city, received from us this year between 30,000 and 40,000 bushels of Manitoba barley. The following statement from them may be depended on as correct:

“We are well satisfied with your barley shipments. We prefer the brighter descriptions, but it all grows well and evenly. We send you a sample of the malt made from the best barley and also an average sample of the whole and you can judge for yourselves. We have a letter from a customer in which he states “I got 1½ barrels for 100 bushels more ale out of the Manitoba malt than I got out of the same quantity of best California.” We also gave instructions to our brewer to make three special brewings, one from Manitoba barley, one from best western barley and one from Ontario barley, in order to fairly test their respective merits. *The result was four and one-half barrels more ale per 100 bushels from Manitoba malt than from western, and greater gravity; and four barrels more per 100 bushels than that produced from same quantity of Ontario malt.*”

Of the samples of malt sent we may state that the best quality was as nearly perfect as could be desired. The average of the lot showed a vitality of ninety-eight per cent.; very conclusive evidence as to the germinating power of Manitoba barley.

The barley shipments made by us came from all sections of the country, the Stonewall district furnishing the brightest samples. The average of the barley carried by the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway was very good in quality, and cleaner than the majority of the barley received from the south and west; and we cannot see any reason why the barley of one section should not compare favorably with that raised in any other part of the country.

With regard to the seed to be used, it is the best policy to grow what our customers, the Americans, require. Four or six rowed barley is about the only description they will purchase, and as mixing old with new barley, or 2 rowed with 6 rowed, will ruin the whole for malting purposes, it should be avoided.

The best and cleanest ground should be chosen, free from weeds or the droppings from last season's crop, and as this crop comes in ahead of wheat great care should be taken in building and stooking up, and covering with cap sheaves to secure it from dew or rain. Many farmers cut their barley and leave it lying on the ground for weeks just as it came from the reaper. The top sheaves should all be carried and threshed by themselves; the barley is just as good for seed, while the better preserved barley in the stook will yield brighter grain and bring full prices.

If the farmers of Manitoba will make up their minds to produce such barley as we have described, they can rely upon obtaining the very best prices prevailing, for there is no doubt but that a good demand will spring up. Malsters want the best barley that can be had, and if they can procure it in Manitoba they will send their orders here. We advise farmers to get ready to supply them. We have good hopes of obtaining lower freight rates in the near future, the benefit of which will go to the producer, and make the raising of barley even more profitable than it has been in the past. The crop is a sure one in this country if properly taken care of. Let farmers use only the best and cleanest of seed, have the ground properly prepared, give strict attention to sowing and harvesting, properly thresh and clean the grain, deliver early in the season, and the result will be highly satisfactory.

WINNIPEG, MAN., 3RD APRIL, 1888.

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